Natalija Simović



Work and Political Experience

Local councilor for the City of Belgrade
Green-left front, Serbia
June 2022 to present

Co-Director, Programmes
Ignite Philanthropy, grantmaking foundation operating globally
February 2023 to present

Working alongside grassroots leaders with lived experience Co-designed and launched Thrive Together, a participatory grantmaking programme supporting survivors of childhood sexual violence to lead grassroots prevention initiatives across Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, MENA and South Asia.

Grantmaking Program Director
Trag foundation, grantmaking foundation operating in Western Balkans region
January 2019 to February 2023

Designed capacity-development, grantmaking and movement-building strategies for organisations ranging from informal groups to established CSOs, using participatory approaches. Led OAK Foundation's Issues Affecting Women programme, supporting 40 organisations with core funding and 19 grassroots groups through participatory grantmaking, and contributed to senior management on programme development, MEL and donor coordination.

Issues Affecting Women Program Regional Manager
Trag Foundation

March 2016 to January 2019

From March 2016 to January 2019, I helped shape OAK Foundation's Western Balkans grantmaking within Issues Affecting Women program, strengthened partner organisations, and oversaw child safeguarding policies across 40 organisations and Trag Foundation.

Personal info

Date of birth: October 17th 1983
Country of residence: Serbia

Contact Info

Email:
Natalija.simovic@zelenolevifront.rs

Language skills

- Serbian: native language
- English: proficiency level
- French: intermediary level of reading and understanding, speaking

Education History

M.A in Cultural Management and Cultural Policy
Institution: University of Arts, Belgrade in cooperation with University Lyon 2, Lyon, France
Year of Graduation: 2008

Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature
Institution: Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade
Year of Graduation: 2007

Alumni of Emerging Leaders International Fellowship Program
Institution: The Graduate Center City University of New York
2014

Women's studies Alumni
Institution: Center for Women's studies, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Belgrade
Year of Graduation: 2017

Volunteer Work, Affiliations, and Interests

Other roles held at Green Left Front,
Co-Chair of the Grand Council
Managed the work of the party's 70+ member delegate decision-making body, overseeing meeting moderation, procedural rules and effective governance
Co-chair of Autonomous Women's Front.
Organized the party's Women's Wing to advance gender equality and women's rights within the party and in wider society.

Certified trainer in fundraising
The Resource Alliance
Since 2015
Trainer and mentor of fundraising strategies for non profit organisations. Advised strategies over 50 resource mobilisation campaigns involving individuals donors and companies.

Publications

Foundations and Support to Women's Organisations (2017)
Center for Women's Studies with in Faculty for Political Sciences, University of Belgrade

Community Foundations and Social Capital: A Vehicle for Philanthropy Development in Western Balkans (2014)
Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, City University of New York, New York, United States